



MINUTES FOR HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSION FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Thursday, 2 February 2017

Attendance: Jonathan Branch, Janice Agazio, Wanda Riddle, Michael Blum, Craig Porterfield, Greg Jolissaint, Robert Lowell, Bob Gillette, Howard Mooney, Lisa Terry GUESTS: Chris Yates (RET, USN), Keida Massey Murray (MDVA VBS), Phillip Munley (MDVA Director), Tom Glenn (author), Ed Hall (Commander American Legion Post 156)

Meeting called to order by Howard at 1903 Introduction and short presentation by Keida Massey Murray, MAJ USA RET, Veterans Benefits Specialist for Howard County and Phillip Munley, MDVA Veteran Service Program Director

Minutes approved from the February meeting. Moved by Greg, seconded by Bob. The next meeting will be on Thursday 2 March. The Veterans Resource Fair will be on 4 April. The fair will be in lieu of the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Veterans Resource Fair will be held at the 50+ Center now. Tom Glenn will be the guest speaker. County Executive Kittleman has also been invited. The County Council has also been invited. Lisa stated that a press release will be sent out. The times will be from 5-8pm. Using 50+ Center because of classrooms and breakout sessions. Larry Killen has secured a color guard for the Resource Fair. Howard authorized \$100.00 for ads for the Resource Fair. Lisa would like to secure unique vendors for the fair. Further discussions were held about the fair, including realtors, CrossFit companies, mortgage companies, etc. Howard County Volunteer Center was going to have students volunteer to conduct veteran interviews.

Lisa reports that the county communications persons is working on business cards and name tags for the commission. Bob reports that after the last meeting, land was agreed on for the monument. The monument will be located near the "red flag" sculpture near the fountain. It is a requirement that the area is to be a free speech zone. A capital campaign is being started for the monument. Bob stated that the foundation is up and running.

A Veterans Day Teacher's guide was introduced. Larry Killen is coordinating speakers for Veterans Day activities. The goal is to have Veterans Day discussed in all Howard County schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

Howard stated that the commission annual report has been completed and submitted. Howard also asked that we lookout for Memorial Day activities. Let Lisa know. Bob Lowell gave an update regarding the Veterans Treatment Court.

A discussion was had about fundraising, especially for the monument. Howard stated that any other ideas for fundraising would be greatly appreciated.

Christopher Williams, a commission member, is being deployed to Fort Bragg, NC then to Baghram AFB for 180 days. A letter was read from Chris.

Meeting was adjourned at 2015 by Howard

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch

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